

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Sumiyo Okada

Serial No. 09/336,706

Confirmation No. 7969

Filed: June 21, 1999

For: MESSAGE DISPLAY METHOD AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND
STORAGE MEDIUM

COPY

Group Art Unit: 2152

Examiner: Beatriz Prieto

RECEIVED

FEB 12 2003

Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: **BOX AF**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on December 24, 2002.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 32, as follows:

During information exchange in, for example, a chat system, a user who is participating in the communication does not always have to proffer his/her opinion. However, the user is only allowed to participate in messages transmitted from other users when actively a part of the common communication field. An application interface for a chat system is provided in, for example, (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. HEI 10-154117). A communication field in which users proffer therein opinions, and a communication field in which users only refer to messages of other users, can be displayed for identification. Messages in the